

February 12, 1959

Mr. Hugh Odishaw
National Academy of Sciences
Washington 25 D.C.

Dear Mr. Odishaw:

Thank you for your correspondence of the 9th and the related material.

I am enclosing a tentative roster for the meeting scheduled here for the 21st. You should certainly have a resumé of it well before the CETEX and COSPAR meetings next month.

Professor Rossi just wrote to send some material, and indicated that it may be advantageous to have a representative of the Space Science Board, perhaps Mr. Darbyshire, to sit with us. We will be meeting at 10AM at the Biophysics Laboratory conference room, Saturday February 21, and I am sure that he or his opposite number will be most welcome. Dr. Jastrow, from NASA, has been in touch with me during the past week and, in view of imminent plans now in the hands of the Working Group for Planetary Exploration, for further moonshots, he has ~~ju~~ suggested it might be advisable to send a representative as an observer, and I trust this is also desirable.

The travel expenses will be limited to the trips (by air or train) from Pasadena (2) and Eugene, Ore. (1) and auto mileage from Berkeley, ~~and~~ Davis, ~~Rakkkx~~ and Pacific Grove, Calif. Say \$250-300 should be more than enough to cover travel and incidental expenses (including telephone). The only additional item I ~~foresee~~ just now might be for transcript, and this is not certain at present. The whole point of a regional group is, of course, to minimize costs and waste of energy in travel. You will receive whatever recommendations we may have to make as to the utility of additional meetings.

Thank you for your information on effects of impact; I was rather afraid the issue might be open. Another question of vital importance is whether the moon is absolutely and uniformly anhydrous. On the assumption it is, I have been willing to conclude that the development of indigenous life, and active persistence of introduced microbes, was out of the question. I gather this also might be controversial, if there is any possibility of continuous seepage to the surface as an adjunct to intermittent volcanic episodes. The possibility of lunar vulcanism is then another contingency on which the best possible assessment must be made as a premise of biological thinking. The enclosed memorandum will be an item on the agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics